



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Juvenile Justice

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Yvonne B. Miller High School

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' **academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs**. This plan describes how Yvonne B. Miller High School (YBMHS) will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. Questions about this plan should be directed to Ms. Deana Williams, Director and School Superintendent: deana.williams@djj.virginia.gov

Summary of YBMHS response to COVID-19:

Prior to the Governor's order to close schools on March 16, 2020, students at YBMHS were using an online learning curriculum. Upon receiving the order to close school, the following actions occurred:

- Education learning packets were sent to the living units for students, including individualized materials for special education and EL students, while IT arranged to move school laptops to the residential living units so online learning may resume. Education administrators and leaders provided intermittent academic support and guidance while students remained in living units.
- Online learning began on the living units. Administrators delivered supplemental materials and assisted unit counselors, who managed the schedule and computer time for students. Teachers, administrators and other school staff (specialists, therapists) communicated with students by phone and email until it was safe to provide in-person instruction on the units with students.
- Special education and EL students were allowed to come back to school for in-person instruction in July 2020 per the Governor's order (phases I and II).
- Additional technology was ordered to include laptops, webcams, and jetpacks to provide students access to the online learning curriculum at both locations (units/school) and to prepare for virtual learning.
- Contracted to secure Canvas, web-based learning management system, in order to provide virtual and hybrid learning (virtual/in-person).
- YBMHS's Reopening Plan 2020-2021 included a mix of virtual, hybrid, and in-person learning in the school, as tolerated by the constraints of COVID and CDC guidance.
- Every student returned to school at the beginning of the August 2021-2022.
- YBMHS continues to utilize a combination of virtual and in-person learning in order to meet each student's educational needs and address facility safety concerns related to current challenges associated with COVID.



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Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

YBMHS has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. A description of actions already taken and additional actions planned is below.

- The Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (JCC), where Yvonne B. Miller School is located, follows the CDC guidelines for congregate care facilities. Anyone entering the facility/school is required to have his or her temperature taken in the lobby of the facility. Access to the facility is denied if the temperature is above normal. Everyone is expected to wear a face mask within the facility at all times in addition to following other safety precautions (e.g. washing hands, use of hand sanitizer, wiping down desk and surfaces with disinfectant wipes). Posters have been placed around the school in classrooms and in the living units showing the proper way to wear a face mask and to wash hands. The school follows the facility guidelines, which align with the recommended CDC procedures, for isolating youth who have come in contact or have the COVID virus.
- Janitorial services have been contracted for routine and deep cleaning in the school. To improve the health and safety conditions of the building, where students receive educational services, it is necessary to replace the rubber roof membrane of one building, replace two rooftop HVAC units, and refurbish/modify individual classroom fan coil units. Doing this will prevent the spread of the coronavirus and other airborne viruses and mitigate water intrusion that leads to mold development which is a known contributor to asthma, allergies and colds.

Section 3: Continuity of Services

YBMHS has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

- Class sizes remain small 5-8 students per class and students sit in individual study carrels. When working at tables, students remain within the allowable distance recommended, at the time, by the CDC. IEP, Section 504, and EL meetings continue to be held to address the individual needs of students to ensure services and education is not interrupted as a result of COVID related issues and its impact on students with disabilities and English Learners.
- When COVID cases increase, the school is able to teach affected students or whole living units virtually or through a hybrid model until those students or groups of students are able to return to the school.
- Students continue to receive mental health services as part of their residential treatment, and the behavior support unit has incorporated material related to COVID as part of therapy.



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- From August 2021 through August 2022, the school contracted with Urban Assembly to provide and support staff through the use of a guided implementation model designed to support the implementation, integration, and sustainability of a high-quality SEL programming to improve district-wide, in-school and out-of-school outcomes for students (ESSER II). Continue to contract services to expand on programming (ESSER III). The program is designed to address the needs of all students (e.g. students of color, English Learners and youth with disabilities).

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, YBMHS sought public input and took such input into account as described below.

YBMHS held a series of Town Hall meetings with Residential Programs to address COVID related issues, providing information and allowing parents the opportunity to ask questions and provided feedback. Dates of those meetings: 9/30/20, 12/8/2020, 3/24/2021, 6/23/2021.

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), YBMHS will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and YBMHS will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

Section 6: Making the Plan Available to the Public

YBMHS has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at www.djj.virginia.gov;
- The plan is currently available in Spanish. Upon request, the plan can also be made available in additional languages;
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Jill Sowers, Director of Special Education and Student Services: jill.sowers@djj.virginia.gov to request translation; and
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Jill Sowers, Director of Special Education and Student Services: jill.sowers@djj.virginia.gov.